

## Ah Counter

The main duty of the Ah Counter is to note words and sounds used as a 'crutch' or pause filler by anyone who speaks during the meeting.

Words may be in appropriate interjections such as "and", 'but', 'so', 'well', or 'you know.' Sounds may be 'ah', 'er', or 'um.' You should also note when a speaker repeats a word or phrase, such as 'I', 'I' or 'this means', 'this means,' as well as restarts (when someone stops a sentence before completion and then restarts with a new thought).

### Before the meeting

Prepare a brief explanation of the duties of the Ah Counter for the benefit of guests.

### Upon arrival at the meeting

Make sure you have a sheet or two of paper so you can write down all the speakers' names and keep a tally of the ahs and ums they make.

### During the meeting

- When introduced by the General Evaluator, explain the role of the Ah Counter.
  - Throughout the meeting, listen to everyone and keep track of all inappropriate filler sounds or words used by anyone who speaks during the meeting, including repeats and restarts. Be sure to write down the name of each person who speaks so you can give an accurate report of non-offenders.
  - Tally the counts for each speaker and the group as a whole.
  - Give a report when called upon by the General Evaluator, including the total count for the meeting and who did particularly well (you may also wish to mention any fillers that were used particularly heavily).
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- This assignment can count towards your Competent Leadership Award. Remember to ask someone to evaluate your performance as Ah Counter in the Competent Leader manual (p.13).